



BRITISH COLUMBIA & ALBERTA



ROCKY MOUNTAINS. Lake Louise, the most beautiful lake in Canada.



CALGARY. Main street of the noted city on the banks of the Bow river.



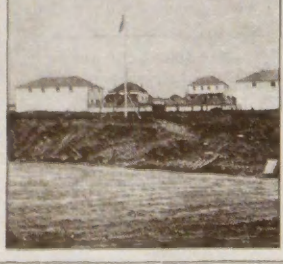
ROCKY MOUNTAIN PARK. The Three Sisters, noted Alberta peaks.



CALGARY. City Hall of the great junction on the Can. Pacific Ry.



EDMONTON. Government Buildings for the provincial administration.



CHIPPWEYAN. Hudson Bay Company's factory on Lake Athabasca.

ALBERTA is the most western of the three Central or Prairie provinces of Canada. It lies between British Columbia on the west and Saskatchewan on the east. The southern boundary is the 49th parallel of latitude which separates it from the United States, whilst across its northern boundary there is the undeveloped district of Mackenzie. From north to south the province extends for about 750 miles; its greatest width is about 400 miles, and it has a total area of 255,285 sq. miles. Owing to its recent development its population is still relatively small. In 1916 it had an estimated population of 500,000, at the census of 1911, 232,726; in 1901, 184,412. These figures indicate the progress of the province during a period of 15 years, and show that great expansion took place in the five years 1911-1916.

Constitution and Government.—The British North America Act (1867) made provision for the creation from time to time of new provinces. In 1905 Alberta, then part of the North-West Territories, became a separate province. Its constitution is contained in the British North America Act, and its several amending Acts, as well as in the Alberta Act, which created the province. The executive is vested in the lieutenant-governor, whose appointment is made by the Federal Government. In practice the executive functions are carried out by the executive council or the Cabinet of the legislature of the province. All Bills passed by the Provincial Legislative Assembly are submitted annually to Ottawa for approval. There are 56 members in the legislature, while the province is represented at Ottawa by six members in the Senate and by twelve in the Canadian House of Commons.

PHYSICAL FEATURES

On its western borders Alberta has the magnificent range of the Rocky Mountains, whose scenery rivals that of the Alps. From the eastern foot of the Rockies the land gradually slopes towards Saskatchewan. The four chief rivers rise in the Rockies and flow towards the east or north-east. Thus the North and South Saskatchewan flow eastwards; the Peace and the Athabasca, head-streams of the Mackenzie, north-eastwards. These rivers have numerous tributaries of various sizes. Throughout Alberta there are many lakes, ranging in size from Lake Athabasca, which is 120 miles long, and Lesser Slave Lake, some 60 miles in length, to lakes whose area is only a few acres. The total lake surface is estimated at nearly 2,500 sq. miles. The numerous lakes are due to the fact that Alberta, in common with the rest of Canada,

was covered by great sheets of ice during the period of geological history known as the Great Ice Age.

CLIMATE

Alberta has one of the healthiest climates in the world. The province is sufficiently elevated to prevent excessive heat in summer, whilst the winters, although very cold, are dry and comparatively free from storms. A peculiar feature of the Alberta climate is the Chinook Wind. This is a Pacific wind which, after passing the mountain and plateau belt of British Columbia, descends to Alberta as a warm, dry wind. It is largely owing to this wind that cattle can remain out all winter, since the grass is converted into natural hay without being cut. These statements can be verified by a consideration of the following figures. Statistics for Victoria (B.C.) and Winnipeg are for the purpose of comparison:

Town.	Latitude.	Altitude above Sea level.	Mean Jan. Temp.	Mean July Temp.	Mean Annual Rainfall.
Victoria (B.C.)	48	Sea level	38° F.	61° F.	40 in.
Calgary	51	3,400	12° F.	60° F.	15 in.
Edmonton	53	2,150	6° F.	62° F.	14 in.
Winnipeg	50	761	-7° F.	68° F.	21 in.

PRODUCTS

Alberta can be divided into three different regions or belts—the southern, the central, and the northern. The southern belt extends from the United States frontier to about 100 miles north of Calgary, and includes the basin of the South Saskatchewan. It is the true prairie part of the Province, so that it consists of rolling grasslands, with few trees. Stock rearing is still a very important occupation, but in recent years, by means of irrigation schemes, enormous crops of grain and vegetables have been produced. This belt contains most of the people. The central belt lies south of the watershed between the North Saskatchewan and Athabasca rivers. As more rain falls in most of this region than in the southern belt, it consists of open prairie grasslands broken by stretches of forest land. This part of the province is excellently suited for mixed farming. The northern belt comprises the basins of the Athabasca and Peace rivers, in which wooded country predominates, although there are considerable open grasslands.

Formerly noted for its ranching industries, Alberta is now pre-eminently an agricultural province. The area of arable land is said to exceed 100,000,000 acres, of which less than 3 per cent. is at present under cultivation. Wheat, oats, and barley are the chief crops, but enormous quantities of vegetables, root crops, and fodder plants are also produced. The growth of mixed farming had led to a spread of dairying and hog-raising industries, which have in turn resulted in a considerable export of butter and cheese, as well as the establishment, at centres like Calgary and Edmonton, of important packing trades. Although not now the chief industry, large-scale ranching is carried on to a larger extent than in any other Canadian province. In 1915 there were in Alberta 621,200 horses, 1,150,000 cattle, and 539,000 sheep.

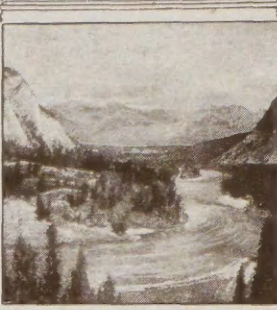
It is believed that considerable areas (16,600 sq. miles) of the province are underlain

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN PARK. Snow-clad peaks, typical coniferous forest and a mountain tarn in the neighbourhood of Banff. The park includes the headwaters of the Bow R., near the Great Divide.

Alberta.



BOW RIVER. Characteristic view on the affluents of the S. Saskatchewan.



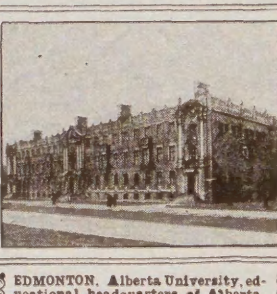
CALGARY. General view of the noted ranching centre of the prairie.



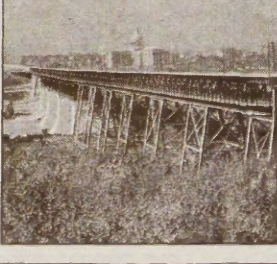
BANFF. Banff Springs Hotel, great sanatorium in Rocky Mountain Park.



EDMONTON. Market place in this busy city on the Saskatchewan river.

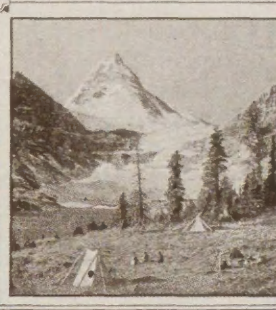


EDMONTON. Alberta University, educational headquarters of Alberta.



EDMONTON. General view of the capital showing the railway bridge.

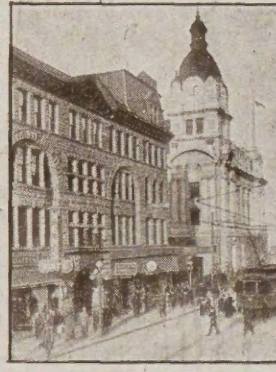
BRITISH COLUMBIA & ALBERTA



ROCKY MOUNTAINS. Survey party camp in the heart of the Cordillera.



COAST MOUNTAINS. Giant forest trees clothe the rainy western slopes.



VANCOUVER. Post Office of this great transcontinental railway terminus.



FRASER RIVER. View upstream of the river which teems with salmon.



VICTORIA. House of Parliament in the capital of the Western Province.



VANCOUVER. Granville Street, with a view of the Fraser river beyond.

BRITISH COLUMBIA is the western province of the Dominion of Canada. It is bounded by the Pacific Ocean and Southern Alaska on the west; on the south by the United States; on the north by the Yukon and Mackenzie Territories; and on the east by Alberta. The total area is 355,855 sq. miles, of which nearly 2,500 sq. miles represents surfaces covered by lakes. At the census of 1911 the population was 392,480, which had decreased, it was estimated, to 383,380 in 1916. This decrease was due to the enlistment of over 38,000 men in the Canadian Expeditionary Forces.

Government.—Prior to 1858 British Columbia, then known as New Caledonia, was part of the Hudson Bay Company's Concession. In that year the discovery of gold led to such a large immigration that the territory became a Crown Colony. Vancouver Island, which was leased to the Hudson Bay Company in 1843, had become a Crown Colony nine years earlier. In 1866 British Columbia and Vancouver were united, and five years later entered the Canadian Confederation. The province is represented in the Canadian Senate by three members, and by seven in the Canadian House of Commons. For provincial matters there is a Provincial Government administered by a lieutenant-governor and a Legislative Assembly composed of 47 members. The assembly is elected every four years, the suffrage being possessed by every duly registered male adult who is a British subject and has been resident in the province for six months. The province is divided into the following sub-divisions: Vancouver Island, Comox, Cariboo, Vancouver and New Westminster, Lillooet, Yale, and the Kootenays (East and West).

PHYSICAL FEATURES

British Columbia forms part of the great Cordilleran mountain system of western North America. It may be divided into three areas, each with its own characteristics—viz.: (1) The islands adjacent to the coast; (2) The southern part of the interior plateau, flanked in the west by the Coast Ranges, on the east by the Rockies, and crossed by other north and south ranges—e.g., Selkirk, Cariboo, and Gold Ranges; (3) The northern part of the southern portion, from which it is cut off by cross-mountain chains in which rise the headwaters of the Peace River.

The first region comprises Vancouver Island and the Queen Charlotte group, as well as hundreds of smaller islands. These islands are the remnants of a sunken mountain chain which once formed the coast range. The islands and coastal margins have a mild and moist climate closely comparable to that of Western England. The coastline is high, bold, and rocky; and these features, together with its long, winding inlets, give it many resemblances to that of Norway.

The second area has a more extreme climate, due to its elevation. There is abundant rainfall on the mountains, which are high enough for the formation of great glaciers. The plateaus between the ranges are, however, very dry; so that whilst the mountains have great wealth in forests, the intermontane plateaus are grasslands and, therefore, more suited for pasture, except where agriculture is possible owing to the introduction of irrigation.

Of the third area very little is accurately known, for surveys have not extended beyond the zone which has been followed by the new transcontinental line (Canadian Grand Trunk Pacific) and to a few areas where minerals have been discovered. Sufficient is already known to prove the existence of great mineral (including coal) and timber wealth. Its climate is more severe than that encountered elsewhere in the province.

The chief peaks are Mount Albert (14,195 ft.), Robson Peak (13,700 ft.), and Mount Bryce (13,000 ft.). All three are in the Rockies. The longest rivers are the Fraser (750 miles) and the Skeena (300 miles), but the province also contains the headwaters of such great rivers as the Mackenzie and the Columbia. Owing to the mountainous nature of the country the rivers are not important for navigation, but their valleys offer routes which are followed by various railway systems.

INDUSTRIES

The wealth of the province lies chiefly in fisheries, forests, agriculture, and minerals. The importance of fisheries, other than salmon, has scarcely been realised. Salmon are caught in the rivers—particularly the Fraser—and off the coasts. Halibut, herring and cod are also increasing in importance, whilst there are also whaling and sealing industries carried on from Victoria.

Probably the largest remaining areas of first-class building timbers in the world are in British Columbia, whilst there are millions of acres of pulp-wood. The comparative smallness of the foreign timber export is due to the great demand for timber from the prairie provinces east of the Rockies. The most noted British Columbia tree is the Douglas Fir.

Agriculture is at present restricted to the lower valley of the Fraser and to the irrigated lands on the lower parts of the interior plateau. The province contains 22,000,000 acres of land

which could become farm-land (arable and pasture). At present only one-tenth of this has been occupied. The present number of livestock (cattle, horses, sheep, etc.) is not large, but is steadily increasing. Wheat, oats, barley, potatoes, and fruits are the chief crops.

British Columbia is exceedingly rich in minerals. Its coal measures are estimated to contain 62,000 million tons, mainly bituminous, of which seams containing 23,000 million tons have been located. The chief mines are in Vancouver Island, in the region of the Crow's Nest Pass, and in the Nicola Valley area. Gold, silver, copper and lead are also found, whilst it is believed that there are enormous deposits of petroleum.

The external trade of British Columbia is very great—one of the world's greatest—when reckoned per head of the population. There is also a considerable trade with other Canadian states. The chief exports are fish, coal, gold, silver, copper, lead, timber, masts and spars, furs and skins, fish oil, and fruit. The greater part of the salmon (canned and pickled) is sent to the United Kingdom, Germany, United States, and Australia; most of the exported coal is purchased by the United States; lumber is shipped to the United Kingdom, South Africa, Japan, China, India, Australia, and Mexico; furs (seal and sea-otter) are sent to the United States, the United Kingdom, and China; whilst almost all British Columbian products find a ready market in Central and Eastern Canada.

CHIEF TOWNS AND PORTS

Victoria.—The capital and oldest city in province, situated on narrow inlet opening from Strait of Juan de Fuca into the south-eastern corner of Vancouver Island. Headquarters of Canadian fur-sealing fleet; second seaport. Pop. 81,660.

Vancouver.—Largest city and chief port; located on Burrard Inlet, one of the deepest and finest harbours in the world; terminus of Canadian Pacific and Canadian Northern Railways; has also connections via Seattle with Great Northern Railway of U.S.A., port for Australia, China and Japan. Pop. in 1901 was 26,000; in 1911, 100,401; in 1916, 114,000.

New Westminster.—One of oldest settlements in province; built near mouth of Fraser on opposite side of a small peninsula from Vancouver; engaged in salmon canning and lumber trade; chief agricultural centre. Pop. 13,199.

Esquimalt.—Formerly naval base for North Pacific Fleet; western suburb of Victoria; its fine harbour is now open to merchant vessels.

Nanaimo.—Coal mining and exporting town; on east coast of Vancouver Island, about 70 miles from Victoria; has important herring fisheries. Pop. 8,306.

Nelson.—Mining, lumbering, and fruit-growing centre; situated on west arm of Kootenay Lake. Pop. 4,476.

Prince Rupert.—Pacific terminus of Grand Trunk Pacific Railway; will increase rapidly with completion of railway; has one of best harbours on Pacific; situated on Kaia I Island, south of Port Simpson. Pop. 4,184.

Rossland.—Mining centre of West Kootenay; situated in valley of Columbia near to U.S. frontier. Pop. 2,826.

North Vancouver.—Pop. 8,196.

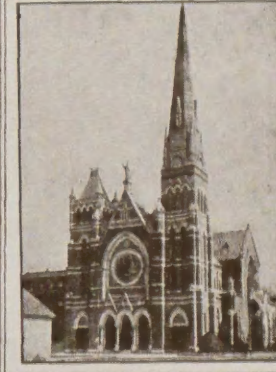
Alberta.



CASCADE MOUNTAINS. Forest giant tarna amidst superb mountain peaks.



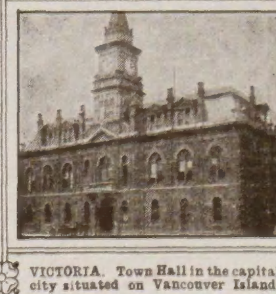
ROCKY MOUNTAINS. Mt. Stephen, 5,321 ft. high, Kicking Horse Pass.



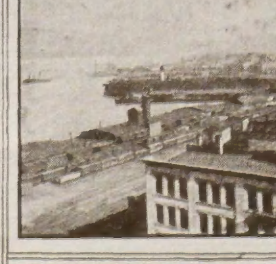
VANCOUVER. Roman Catholic Cathedral in a city not yet 40 yrs. old.



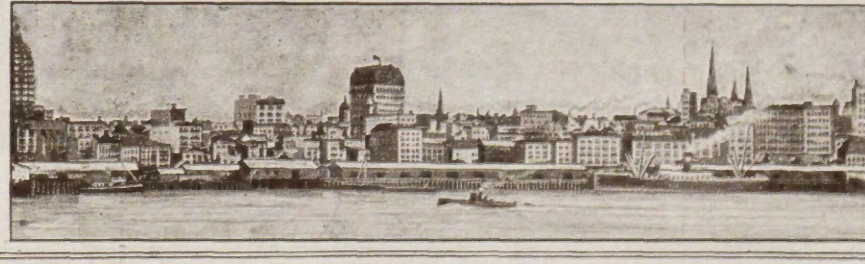
PRINCE RUPERT. Coastal terminal of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway.



VICTORIA. Town Hall in the capital city situated on Vancouver Island.



VANCOUVER. View of the Harbour of the great port for the Pacific trade.



VANCOUVER. View of the water front, with a background of sky-scrapers, of the Pacific port at the mouth of the Fraser river. The port includes a Canadian Government dock and wharves for the traffic in petroleum.